News-item "DDA's medical credit scheme boomerangs"

1655. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news- item captioned "DDA's medical credit scheme boomerangs" which appeared in th Hindustan Times, dated the 13th July, 2001;

(b) if so, whether Government have by now, ascertained factual position ragarding irregularities and embezzlements committed in DDA due to nexus between DDA staff and various nursing homes and hospitals in settlement of medical claims amounting to crores of rupees;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to conduct a high level investigation in aforesaid medical scam and also entrust the matter to CBI for indepth investigation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The DDA has reported that as a welfare measure for DDA staff, besides the reimbursement scheme, credit facility benefit was increased from one nursing home/hospital to seven in September, 1999. Re-imbursement expenditure increased from Rs. 2.24 crores in 1998-99 when there was only one credit facility unit, to Rs. 6.60 crores (provisional) in 2000-2001 when 7 nursing homes/hospitals were in operation. Inpatients who availed of the credit facility benefit increased four-fold from 658 in 1998-99 to 2920 in 2000-2001. Most of the beneficiaries were Group D category employees. The medical reimbursement expenditure of Rs. 6.60 crore (provisional) works out to be 2.5% of the DDA's total establishement expenditure of around Rs. 275 crores. DDA has a staff of about 22,600.

(d) and (e) On the basis of complaints received, besides internal reviews, a Committee which had Chief Medical Officer from Directorate of Health Services, GNCTD as a member, examined all issue and recommended temporary withdrawal of this credit facility. This credit facility was withdrawn *w.e.f* 1.4.2001. The complaints received by DDA have also been referred to the Vigilance Department of DDA for investigation.